

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed October 1, 2003 indicates that Claims 1 - 20, 22, and 24 - 46 are pending in the application. This does not agree with applicants' records which show Claims 1 - 20, 22, and 24 - 34 to be pending in the application. Since applicants have no record of having submitted any claims 35 - 46, applicants will address the claims which their papers show are pending.

The Examiner has indicated that Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. § 121:

- I. Claims 1 - 9, drawn to aluminum alloy product, classified in class 148, subclass 415.
- II. Claims 10 - 20, 22, 24 - 46, drawn to a method of providing an aluminum oxide film on the surface of an aluminum alloy, classified in class 427, subclass 453.

Applicants' records show that it is Claims 1 - 7 which are drawn to an aluminum alloy product, and Claims 8 - 20, 22, and 24 - 34 drawn to a method of providing a high purity aluminum alloy having an aluminum oxide film on a surface of the alloy.

Applicants hereby elect without traverse to prosecute Claims 8 - 20, 22, and 24 - 34 (all of the claims pertaining to the method of providing an aluminum oxide film on the surface of an aluminum alloy) in the present application.

Claims 1 - 7 (all of the claims pertaining to the aluminum alloy product) are withdrawn from prosecution in the present application, without prejudice, to be brought subsequently in a divisional application, if desired.

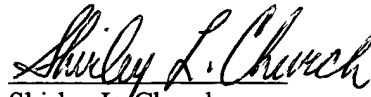
In the event that applicants' records are incorrect, it is applicants' intent to prosecute all of the method claims which are pending in the application and which fall under grouping II above.

Applicants believe that the claims as amended are in condition for allowance, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to enter the requested amendments and to pass the application to allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact applicants' attorney with any questions or suggestions, at the telephone number provided below.

Attorney Docket No.: AM-6846

U.S. Express Mail No.: EU313733630US

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Shirley L. Church". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

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